


Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia in Michigan and How State Lawmakers Can Help

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Alzheimer's is More than "Memory Loss"

Alzheimer's is a progressive disease of the brain that destroys brain cells, causing problems with memory, thinking and behavior.

3 stages: pre-clinical, mild cognitive impairment (MCI), and dementia due to Alzheimer's.



Dementia is a general term used to describe a decline in cognitive functioning and Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia.

Advanced Alzheimer's, cognitive and functional abilities decline: failure to communicate and recognize loved ones, 24/7 care, bed-bound.

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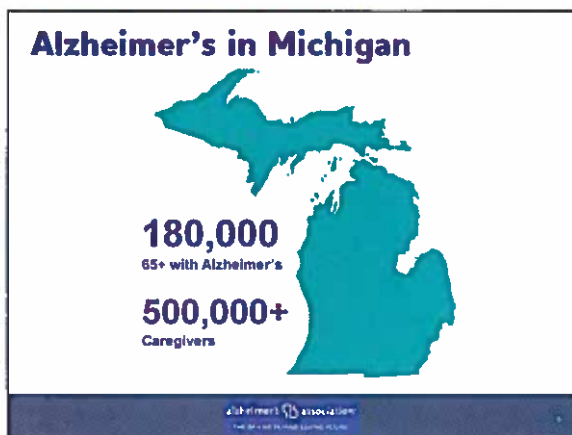
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE IS THE 6TH LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH IN THE UNITED STATES

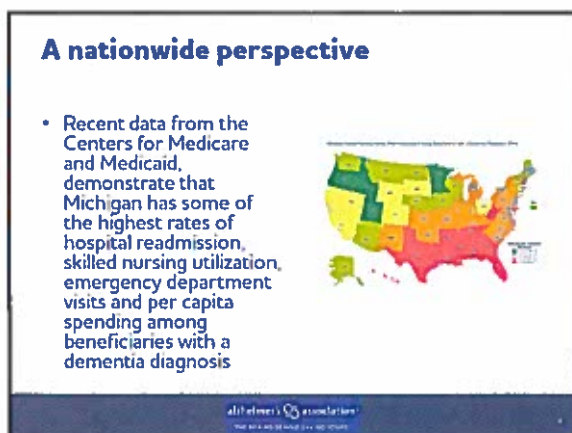
MORE THAN 5 MILLION AMERICANS ARE LIVING WITH ALZHEIMER'S BY 2050, THIS NUMBER COULD RISE AS HIGH AS 16 MILLION

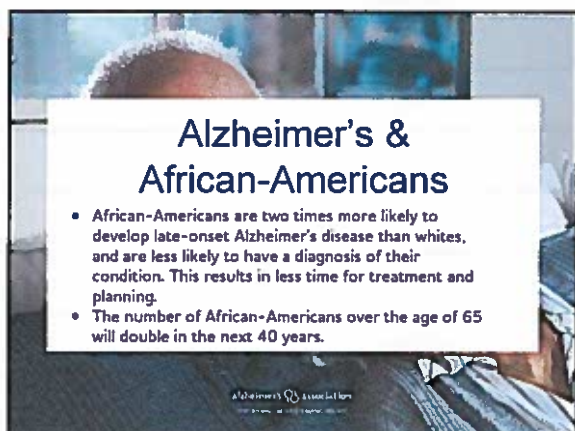
EVERY 66 SECONDS someone in the United States develops the disease

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Alzheimer's & African-Americans

- African-Americans are two times more likely to develop late-onset Alzheimer's disease than whites, and are less likely to have a diagnosis of their condition. This results in less time for treatment and planning.
- The number of African-Americans over the age of 65 will double in the next 40 years.

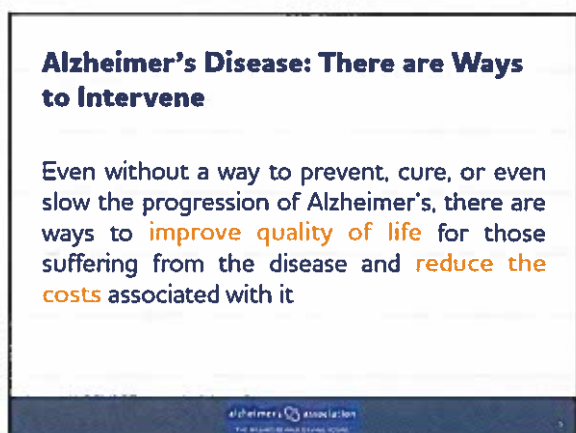
Alzheimer's Association
The Alzheimer's Association is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing, caring for, and supporting people with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.



MICHIGAN Can Lead the Nation

in caring for residents with Alzheimer's and Dementia

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Alzheimer's Disease: There are Ways to Intervene

Even without a way to prevent, cure, or even slow the progression of Alzheimer's, there are ways to **improve quality of life** for those suffering from the disease and **reduce the costs** associated with it.

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1. Michigan Dementia Coalition and Michigan Dementia Plan

- Coalition is developing a plan that identifies clear public policy goals and recommendations to reduce the burden of dementia in Michigan and beyond
- In 2018, legislators can publicize and implement the plan



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2. Elder Abuse Prevention

- Legislation that specifically protects vulnerable older adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- Example: training for Adult protective Services and law enforcement on cognitive impairment and effective intervention
- Example: Making it a criminal offense to financially exploit a cognitively impaired person



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3. Awareness Campaigns

- November is National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and National Caregivers Month
- June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month
- Consider ways to raise awareness during these months using: Social media, radio, print media, newsletters, etc.



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4. More Ways to Help

- Consider policies that bolster the workforce and improve education on dementia for professional caregivers
- Consider policies that expand home and community based services including respite care



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5. Implement the Michigan Dementia Care and Support Program

- For statewide coverage of care planning and support for families with dementia
- Appropriation of \$2 million in FY 2019
- Serving over 1,000 people a year to connect residents to local services in order to delay or prevent long term care placement



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Questions?

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